



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2021

Dear Sachem Family,

As technology becomes an increasing part of our student's daily lives, both in and outside of school, I write to you this morning to share information about an online platform that was recently brought to my attention and gaining in popularity among students of all ages.

The site is called www.omegle.com and is designed to be a way for individuals to randomly connect with strangers and chat anonymously either through text or video. The site is also frequently advertised and posted on the app TikTok and makes it appear that it is exciting to "talk with strangers." Furthermore, the encounters encouraged through this website appear to be unsupervised and seem to target young people with no age verification required. You can read available reviews about this site here.

<https://www.common sense media.org/website-reviews/omegle/user-reviews/adult>.

As a school district, we seek to educate our students about the importance of safeguarding their personal information when online and the proper ways to use the internet. As partners in this effort, I strongly encourage you to speak with your children about the importance of internet safety and, as age appropriate, discuss the risks these types of sites can have when used. It is our hope that these conversations will help to reinforce the dangers communicating (either in person or virtually) with people they do not know and should not trust.

Additionally, to help parents monitor their child's access to such platforms and other internet-based applications, below you will find a series of links with information in regard to blocking access to potentially harmful websites.

Apple ScreenTime (iOS): <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304#web-content>

Apple ScreenTime (macOS): <https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/change-screen-time-content-privacy-mchlbcf0dfe2/mac>

Google FamilyLink: <https://support.google.com/families/answer/7087030?hl=en#zippy=%2Cblock-or-allow-certain-sites>

Microsoft Family Safety: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/account-billing/filter-inappropriate-websites-and-searches-in-microsoft-edge-3034d91e-5efa-9fbe-1384-46009f087ccf>

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Furthermore, some wireless routers also provide web filtering capabilities, which could help block websites on any wireless device (while they are on their home network) if it cannot be blocked at the device level.

Netgear: <https://kb.netgear.com/24053/How-do-I-block-Internet-sites-on-my-NETGEAR-router-using-the-router-web-interface>

Google: <https://support.google.com/wifi/answer/7506043?hl=en>

Eero: <https://support.eero.com/hc/en-us/articles/360045634132-Block-Allow-Websites>

Please stay well!

Thank you,

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